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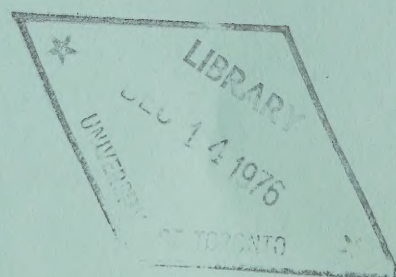
Government
Publications

ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

OPEN MEETING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

May 9, 1975

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ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

MEETING

OPEN MEETING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

5-0114	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE AND TIME</u>
	University of Toronto	May 9, 1975 2:30 p.m.

5-0115	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
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OCUA MEMBERS

J. S. Dupré

W. E. Bagnall	L. Good
M. A. B. Bush	W. A. Goyan
J. J. Deutsch	R. P. Riggin
A. D'Iorio	H. H. Walker
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OCUA STAFF

J. P. Venton Executive Secretary	N. E. Simmons Associate Secretary
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MCU (Observer)

P. J. Wright
University Affairs Officer

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DELIGATION

Dr. J. Evans President, University of Toronto	Mr. C. Harding Chairman, Governing Council
Mr. W. H. Broadhurst Member, Governing Council	Principal D. Campbell Scarborough College
Mrs A. Dick Member, Governing Council	Professor J. Dove Chairman, Academic Affairs Committee

Professor W. Dunphy
Member, Governing Council

Professor C. Hanly
Chairman, Planning & Resources
Committee

Mrs. B. Kennedy
Member, Governing Council

Principal E. Robinson
Erindale College

Mr. R. Brown
Director, Personnel Department

Dr. G. Connell
Vice-President, Research and Planning

Mr. M. Dedrick
Director of Finance

President G. French
Victoria University

Dr. J. Hamilton
Vice-Provost, Health Sciences

Dr. R. Holmes
Dean
Faculty of Medicine

Mrs. F. Ireland
Research Assistant to the President

Mr. N. James
Vice-President, External Affairs

Mr. W. Kent
Director of Admissions

Mr. P. Phillips
Director, Student Awards

Mr. R. Ross
Vice-Provost

Mr. J. Tusiewicz
Director, Statistics and Records

Mrs. P. Fleury
Member, Governing Council

Dr. G. Ignatieff
Provost, Trinity College

Mr. S. Moses
Member, Governing Council

Mr. W. Whelton
Member, Governing Council

Dr. T. Clark
Director, Research Administration

Professor J. Conway
Vice-President, Internal Affairs

Dean B. Etkin
Applied Science and Engineering

Dean R. Greene
Arts and Science

Mr. G. Hiebert
Assistant
Research and Planning

Professor F. Iacobucci
Incoming Vice-President
Internal Affairs

Professor M. Israel
Vice-Provost

Father J. Kelly, President,
University of St. Michael's College

Professor P. Meincke
Vice-Provost

Mr. A. Rankin
Vice-President, Business Affairs

Dean A. Safarian
School of Graduate Studies

Mr. R. White
Controller

Following introductory remarks by the Chairman of the Governing Council, dialogue focused on the following:

5-0116 FORMULA REVISION

The University's proposal for formula revision, detailed in the brief, was considered an outgrowth of, rather than an alternative to, the COU Guindon Green Paper. The latter, the delegation felt, would serve only short term expediency and would require revision within three years, whereas Toronto's model was considered to have applicability for a considerable period of time.

A review of funding data under the Toronto model demonstrated that historically this method of financing would not have drastically altered any university's level of revenue. The proposal had been developed as a means to ensuring that purchasing power within the University system would not be further diminished and to remove the financial incentive for growth.

With regard to student weights the delegation felt that the relative inequities among categories would continue to exist even if these schedules were totally revised. Weight revisions were not seen as a means of curing the erosion of purchasing power. It was noted as well that throughout the full range of Health Sciences programmes heavy clinical and service costs were being incurred and additional funding of some form was required. It was suggested that funding of Health Sciences be investigated in this light.

5-0117 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

On April 30, 1975 the University of Toronto anticipated a \$1.2 million deficit, \$300,000 in excess of that approved in the 1974-75 budget. At the same date the University's accumulated surplus would total \$2 million.

In 1975-76 a \$5.4 million deficit had been budgeted which was expected to be reduced to \$3.9 million through underspending and unexpected revenue. The University therefore forecast that on

April 30, 1976 its operating reserves would be entirely depleted leaving an accumulated deficit of \$1.9 million.

5-0118

CONTINGENCY PLANS

It was noted that the University had virtually completed its budgeting process at the time of the ministerial announcement concerning the level of system funding for 1975-76. As a result of this announcement, the University had been forced to reduce its expenditure of \$1.4 million. The 1975-76 revenue increases had been devoted almost entirely to salaries and employee benefits.

It was noted that for the past 3 to 4 years the University had been reducing its faculty complement, thus improving productivity in terms of a BIU:FTE ratio. The delegation indicated that this trend would be continued in 1975-76 and 1976-77. Nonetheless, the University forecast a situation in 1976-77 where, even if the increase in the BIU value offset inflation, a deficit of approximately \$7.5 million was anticipated. The extent of such a deficit in real resource terms could be equated to a reduction of 150 academic positions plus 239 staff positions in a steady-state enrolment situation.

In summary the President stressed that further depletion of university support at this point in time would drastically alter the nature of the institution and that extensive enrolment growth throughout the system would merely exacerbate current problems. He noted as well that unmeasurable university resources such as the quality of research were in danger of winding down abruptly and would be very difficult and costly to resuscitate at a later date.

5-0119

ACCESSIBILITY

At the University of Toronto average grades required for admission were in practice higher than published standards due to competition for places. On the St. George campus in 1974-75 the average cut-off point was 75% in Science and 72% in Arts. The same situation applied to a lesser degree at Erindale and Scarborough Colleges. The delegation

indicated that academic standards would continue to be the primary criterion for admission although certain professional schools had expressed interest in examining less tangible criteria. The Dean of the Medical School noted that interview techniques had been used in the past in applications screening but that the results had been inconclusive. A new interview system was under consideration. However, the Faculty was proceeding cautiously in view of the negative reaction of the public in the past to soft criteria and of the current societal sensitivity to discrimination. Due to the programme's enrolment ceiling, at present only 19% of applications to Toronto's Medical School were accepted.

Concerning the preparedness of applicants the University had no empirical evidence to demonstrate deteriorating secondary school standards. Studies were however underway to evaluate the performance of students originating from geographic areas.

5-0120

STUDENT SUPPORT

The delegation stressed that OSAP provisions were not adequate to offset costs for students living away from home. It was noted in particular that university residences cost on an average \$1,500 per annum of which OSAP provided \$1,300; out-of-town students living elsewhere received only \$40 per week. Noted also was the growing scarcity of student accommodation. The University felt that funding for provision of student housing would soon require a higher priority.

The Graduate Students Union had formed a commission to investigate the high dropout rate in Humanities and Social Sciences doctoral programmes. Findings attributed the situation mainly to a lack of student funding and decreasing job opportunities for graduates. It was felt that OGS created insecurity in the minds of graduate students due to the requirement of annual reapplications. A student representative urged that the level of funding available for graduate student support, graduate research and general university operations be increased.

5-0121 TUITION FEES

The delegation recognized that increasing student tuition fees would not solve the University's financial problems but nonetheless felt strongly that the prerogative of the Governing Council in this regard ought to be retained. The University stressed that it would be retrogressive to increase fee levels without offsetting financial barriers to accessibility through increased student support.

5-0122 GRADUATE STUDIES

It was noted that the alternatives to ACAP put forward for discussion purposes in the University's brief had as objectives reduction of time and energy spent in resource rationalization and improvement of output. The delegation felt that the ACAP process had become too complex and inflexible, and that recognition should be given to the ongoing self-assessment of graduate programmes. It was also noted that student and faculty interest flowed over the artificial discipline boundaries which had been created. The delegation suggested that a realistic costing of ACAP should take into account the uncharged time and effort spent by the system in each assessment.

The University requested clarification of the purpose of ACAP assessments and a shift in emphasis from quantitative to qualitative examination. It was noted that university financial circumstances had altered, graduate funds were limited, and programme growth had ceased. The delegation felt that the onus should be placed on universities to select areas of concentration and excellence perhaps through the development of more explicit future plans for graduate studies.

Emphasis was also placed on the necessity to adequately fund research and the importance of maintaining the quality of university-based research. It was felt that the combination of teaching and research in Ontario had grown to international standards but was in jeopardy.

5-0123 SYSTEM-WIDE COORDINATION

Concerns which had been expressed by other universities regarding

the catalogue support system were discussed. It was reported that the number of titles in the system had been growing slowly as a result of planned staging; that cost estimate results were not yet completed; and, that most past problems had been related to hardware unreliability. The delegation agreed to forward detailed information in this regard subsequent to the meeting.

Generally the University considered coordination of library services to be one of the most potentially successful system-wide efforts. Toronto was deeply committed to see developments in library coordination through to successful completion and was convinced that the area of academic support services was primary among those where a potential for savings existed.

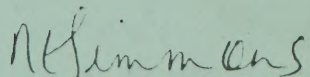
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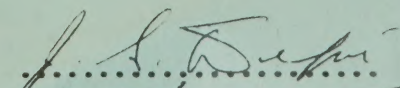
CAPITAL

As a prelude to Council's tour of the St. George campus, the limitations imposed on programmes by physical facilities had been reviewed. Details of the University's plans in this regard were included in the brief and it was stressed that it was not the objective of proposed alterations to the physical plant to increase enrolment.

Many buildings on the St. George campus had been declared historic sites, but the University had been unable to secure financial assistance either provincially or federally for their maintenance. A list of locations classified 'historic' would be forthcoming.

With regard to the suburban campuses the delegation did not support removal of the freeze on capital construction as long as the Province felt that unused capacity existed elsewhere in the system. However, it was stressed that adequate lead time be allowed when it was decided that expansion of Scarborough and Erindale was required.


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N. E. Simmons
Associate Secretary


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J. S. Dupre
Chairman

